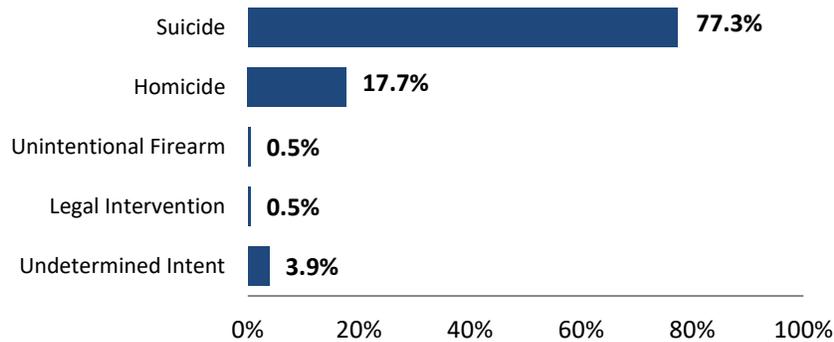


VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: BUNCOMBE COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2008-2017

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of occurrence rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrent ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Buncombe County for the years 2008-2017.

Manner of Death: Buncombe County, N.C.:
NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

~ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System ~



- For the years 2008-2017, there were 586 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Buncombe County. Of these 586 deaths, 563 were N.C. residents (96.1%) and 535 were Buncombe County residents (91.3%).

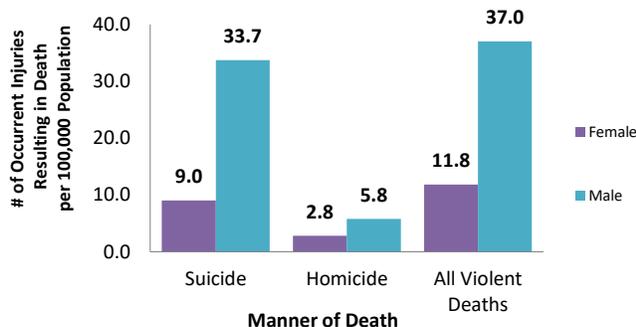
- There were 453 suicides (77.3%), 104 homicides (17.7%), 3 unintentional firearm deaths (0.5%), 3 deaths from legal intervention (0.5%) and 23 deaths of undetermined intent (3.9%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Buncombe County, the suicide ratio was 3.7 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.1 times higher in males than in females.
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be non-Hispanic (NH) white than non-Hispanic black. NH whites had 22.3 suicides per 100,000 population versus 10.4 suicides per 100,000 population in NH blacks. All other racial groups combined had 16 suicides.
- In contrast, NH blacks had 15.4 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 3.1 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 13 homicides.

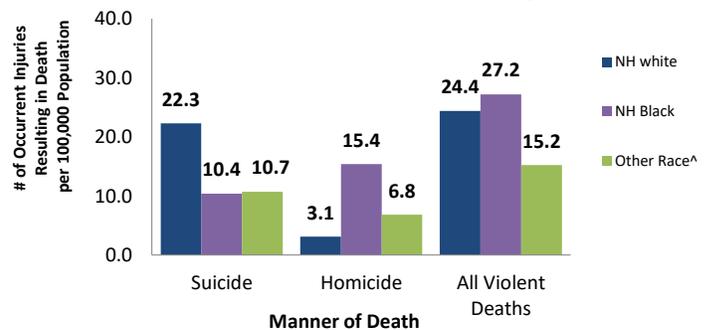
Manner of Death by Sex: Buncombe County, N.C.:
NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

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Manner of Death by Race: Buncombe County, N.C.:
NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

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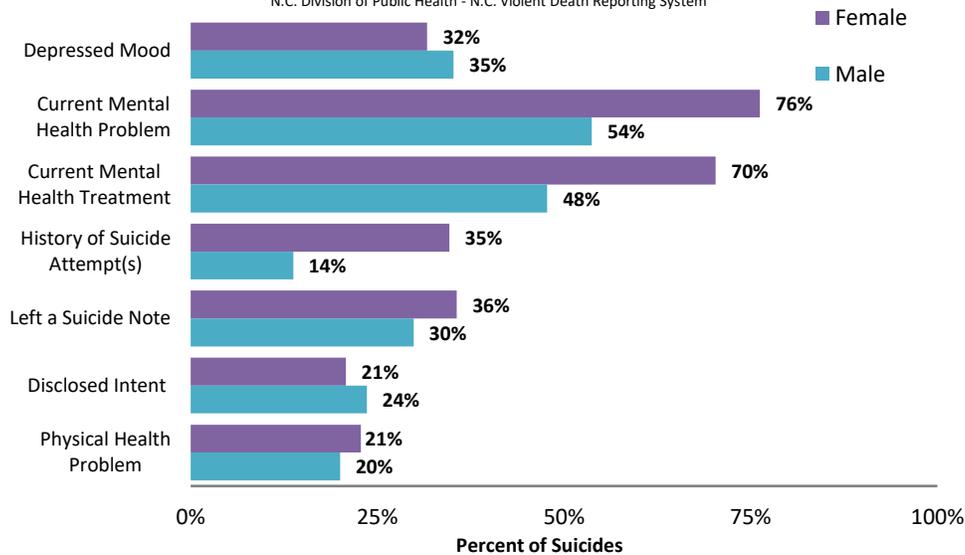
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

^Other race refers to Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 8.8 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 45-54 with 28.7 suicides per 100,000.
- Approximately half of homicides (52.9%) and suicides (50.1%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 29.8% of homicides and 22.7% of suicides.
- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (83.8%) than male (75.0%) victims.

Circumstances of Suicides: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

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- 35.2% of male and 31.7% of female Buncombe County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

- 76.2% of female and 53.7% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

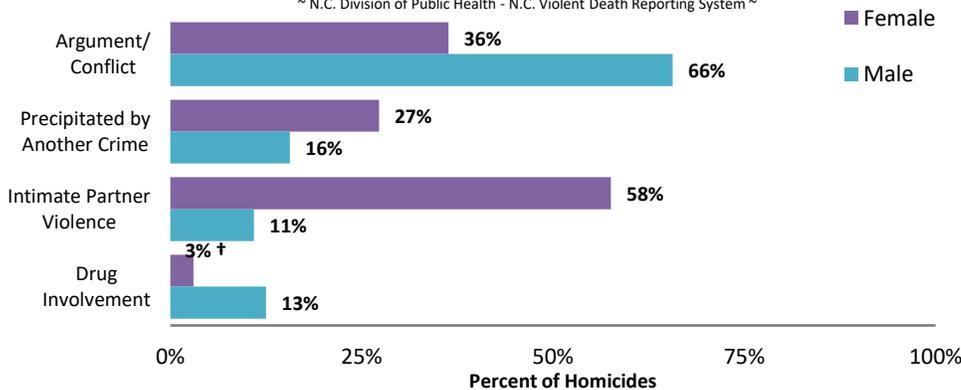
- Females (34.7%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (13.7%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 96.2% of cases had circumstance information. 2 females and 15 males were missing circumstance information.

†There were less than or equal to 5 deaths

Circumstances of Homicides: Buncombe County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

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- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (65.6%) than for female homicides (36.4%).

- 27.3% of female homicides and 15.6% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 57.6% of female homicides, but only 10.9% of male homicides.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 93.3% of cases had circumstance information. 4 males and 3 females were missing circumstance information.

†There were less than or equal to 5 deaths

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE002613-05-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

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Please see the NC-VDRS 2017 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.

